WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Production and Export of Sugar

166. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production and import of sugar during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that export of sugar has been allowed;

(c) if so, the details of the prevailing policy in this regard;

(d) the quantity of sugar exported by STC and/or the Indian Sugar Exim Corporation Ltd. Year-wise since inception of the current policy, its prices and India's share in the total export market;

(e) the details of current trend of price of sugar in the international market; and

(f) the details of measures, if any, contemplated by Government to facilitate enhanced sugar export by Indian producers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The production and import of sugar during the last three Sugar Seasons (October/September) are given below:-

Sugar Season	Production (in Lakh MT)	Imports (in Lakh Tons)
2003-04	139.58	0.744
2004-05	130.00	9.327
2005-06 (estimated)	191.00	5.587

(b) and (c) As per the Foreign Trade Policy, 2004—09, sugar is freely exportable. However in view of the rising prices in the domestic market, the Government of India *vide* Notification No. 18(RE-2006)/2004—2009 dated 4th July, 2006 prohibited export of sugar expect for the preferential quota supply to EU and USA.

(d) and (e) The information is being collected from the Directorate of Sugar, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

(f) The Government of India reviews the situation of rising prices of essential commodities. With a review to control prices, the Government decided to ban the export of sugar with immediate effect. Accordingly, Directorate General of Foreign Trade issued Notification No. 18 dated 04.07.2006 imposing ban on export of sugar up to 31.03.2007. Barring this temporary restriction, sugar is freely exportable and no other measure is considered necessary to enhance its export.

Production of sugar

†167. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the production of sugar in the country during 2005-06;

(b) whether the present stock of sugar is adequate keeping in view its consumption in the country and its import is not required;

(c) whether Government have considered making import of sugar duty-free;

(d) whether the State Trading Corporation has been considered for partnership in sugar export; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The sugar production during sugar season 2005-06 (October—September) is estimated at 191.00 lakhs MTs.

(b) The information is being collected from the Directorate of Sugar, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

(c) Import of sugar is free. Department of Revenue *vide* Notification No. 63/2006-Customs dated 23.6.2006 has allowed import of White Sugar (Exim Codes 1701 91 00 & 1701 99 90) at zero duty upto 30.9.2006).

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.